TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT

On Tap

Volume 15 Issue 9 September 2009

Water System Emergency Supply and Reliability Project

In the July issue of *ON TAP*, we began to share information about the District's three large capital improvement projects intended to improve water supply and improve water storage. The majority of that issue discussed the Well Facility Upgrade.

The August issue of *ON TAP* shared information about the District's involvement in a proposed regional water treatment plant known as the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility.

This issue of *ON TAP* will discuss the last of the District's three major capital projects which is the Water Reservoir and Distribution System Improvements.

Water Reservoir

The District currently has 2.5 average days of water storage which is below the Metropolitan Water District (MET) recommended storage of seven (7) average days. The District proposes to construct a 2.0 million (MG) gallon domestic water reservoir to further meet MET's recommended storage requirements which will increase the storage capacity from 2.5 to 3.5 days based on a current average daily flow of 2.8 million gallons per day.

The construction of this 2.0 MG reservoir would provide further reliability and redundancy should one of the District's main reservoirs need to be taken out of service for maintenance or other emergency repairs.

The site location and construction timeframe for the reservoir will be determined following further evaluation and an engineering analysis.

The District is further relying on meeting its storage requirements through the use of the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility, Irvine Lake Storage Water, and emergency water interties with adjacent districts.

Water System Distribution Improvements

The Water System Distribution Improvements relate to creating an intertie from the Trabuco Highlands development to the Dove Canyon development (Brookseed/Dove Extension Project) to expand water supply reliability for the District and its customers.

The project is located on a fire service road in the eastern portion of the District and involves the installation of approximately 3,700 feet of 8-inch pipe beginning on Brookseed Drive in the Trabuco Highlands development and ending at the Dove Reservoir in the Dove Canyon development. The project will enhance the District's ability to keep the two million gallon Dove Reservoir full during peak flow demand periods, including additional fire flow demands resulting from wild fires. In addition to providing a redundant water supply to the Dove Reservoir

service area in the event of the loss of the main waterline to the Dove Canyon Reservoir service area, the project will greatly assist in fire suppression in the remote area as fire hydrants will be installed along the water distribution line and fire service road.

It is anticipated the cost of the Water Reservoir and Distribution System Improvements will be approximately $3,830,000.

WATER CONSERVATION – IRRIGATION TIMERS ARE AN IMPORTANT TOOL

Most homes with outside landscape have automatic irrigation timers. When used correctly, they can be the most effective tool when trying to conserve water.

Checking your sprinkler timer is a good weekend project and shouldn't take a long time to do. Are the run times for each zone appropriate for the foliage in that zone? If water is running onto the sidewalk or into the street, water is literally going down the drain, and you are paying for it. The default factory setting for most residential timers is 10 minutes **per station, per day**, starting at 5:00 a.m. It is easy to forget about your timer and the run times of each station at that early hour of the morning.

And speaking of default settings, don't forget about the battery in your irrigation timer. It is actually a "backup" battery that will hold your programming for each station in the event there is a power failure at your house. If the battery is old and has lost its charge, a power failure will result in a default return to the factory settings when the power comes back on.

If you have an 8 station timer and don't adjust the factory settings for your property, this means you could be using more than 400 gallons of water each day for irrigation.

Another thing that might be important to check is the directions if you are installing a new irrigation timer. At the water district, we hear most of the horror stories when it comes to over-watering. "Start Times" are the actual clock time a station will start watering. "Run Times" are the number of minutes a station will be on. We have seen instances where these two iterms have been confused; a "Start Time of 5:00 a.m. was programmed into the "Run Time" which meant a 5 hour run time. In the middle of the night or early morning, this might be difficult to check.

Board Highlights

- **August 19, 2009 – Approved responses to the Orange County Grand Jury Reports concerning water supply issues**
- **Approved a letter of support for Senate Bill 696 (Wright)**
- **Received a status update relating to the Canyon Creek Pump Station**
- **Approved the purchase of a Solar Bee for Dove Lake**
- **Approved the notification for Proposition 218 procedures relating to the Water Reliability and Emergency Storage Fee and Ad Valorem Property Tax Diversion Fee**
- **Received Status Updates Relating to the California Drought and Water Conservation Efforts, the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility, and the Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities Projects**

ON TAP is published and distributed by TCWD.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor

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